

## Message Text

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14

ACTION CEQ-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CIAE-00

OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 IO-11 L-03

NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-03 SS-15

SP-02 INT-05 /096 W

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R 030706Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1809

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, SPOP, OVIP, RP

SUBJECT: MANILA VISIT OF CHAIRMAN PETERSON OF COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

REF: MANILA 0718; STATE 019804 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: VISIT BY DR. PETERSON TO MANILA WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY A LENGTHY AUDIENCE WITH MRS. IMELDA ROMUALDEZ MARCOS WHO SKETCHED A GRAND DESIGN FOR A MODERN AND SPRAWLING METROPOLITAN MANILA EXTENDING TO TAGAYTAY. MRS. MARCOS DISCUSSED THE PROBLEMS OF URBAN DEVELOPMENTS AND ASKED FOR INFORMATION ON THE ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WHICH DR. PETERSON PROMISED TO TRY TO LOCATE AND SEND. THE BALANCE OF THE VISIT GENERALLY FOLLOWED THE PROGRAM PREVIOUSLY OUTLINED WITH THE ADDITION OF TWO FIELD TRIPS WHICH FURNISHED DR. PETERSON WITH A FIRSTHAND LOOK AT THE PROGRESS OF PHILIPPINE FAMILY PLANNING ACTIVITIES.

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1. VISIT TO MANILA ON JANUARY 28 TO 31 BY CHAIRMAN  
RUSSEL PETERSON AND DR. LEE TALBOT OF COUNCIL ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY MORE THAN  
ONE-HOUR LONG CALL ON MRS. IMELDA ROMUALDEZ MARCOS WHO  
IS FOUNDING CHAIRMAN OF THE POPULATION CENTER FOUNDATION  
AND OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES. IT  
WAS IN HER ROLE AS GOVERNOR OF METROPOLITAN MANILA,  
HOWEVER, THAT MRS. MARCOS DISCUSSED THE PROBLEMS OF THE  
ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

2. IN AN EXPANSIVE MOOD, MRS. MARCOS EXPLAINED THAT SHE HAD  
NO MASTER PLAN FOR METRO MANILA AS HER FRIENDS EXPECTED.  
WHAT SHE WANTED TO DO WAS TO SENSE AND FEEL THE WISHES OF  
THE PEOPLE, AND ACT ACCORDINGLY. SENSING THAT HER VISITORS  
WERE UNFAMILIAR WITH METRO MANILA, MRS. MARCOS CALLED FOR  
A MAP AND POINTED OUT THE POLITICAL BOUNDARIES AND GEOGRAPH-  
ICAL FEATURES OF THE AREA. SHE THEN TOOK A GREASE PEN AND  
DREW A STRAIGHT LINE ACROSS THE BAY FROM MANILA TO CAVITE.  
THE CURRENT RECLAMATION WOULD BE EXTENDED TO COVER THAT  
ENCLOSED AREA, AND THE PRESENT MANILA INTERNATIONAL  
AIRPORT (MIA) WOULD BE RELOCATED TO THE FORMER U.S. NAVAL  
AIR STATION AT SANGLEY POINT (CAVITE). MIA WAS A BARRIER  
TO COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BICOL AND THE SOUTH AND HAD TO BE  
REMOVED. MRS. MARCOS THEN EXTENDED THE BOUNDARIES OF  
METRO MANILA TO TAKE IN HALF OF CAVITE PROVINCE UP TO TAGAYTAY  
AND PART OF LAGUNA UP TO CALAMBA.

3. COMMENT. MRS. MARCOS DID NOT INDICATE THE TIME SPAN  
REQUIRED FOR THE REALIZATION OF HER GRAND DESIGN FOR A  
MORE MODERN AND LARGER METROPOLITAN MANILA. THE RECLAMATION  
PROJECT WOULD BE AN EVEN GREATER UNDERTAKING THAN THE  
CURRENT LAND FILL. HOWEVER, THE SOUTHERN THRUST OF HER  
GRAND DESIGN COINCIDES WITH THE SHIFT IN INDUSTRY AND  
INTEREST TOWARDS LAGUNA AS EVIDENCED BY THE RECENT OPENING  
OF THE SWIFT AND OWENS-CORNING JOINT VENTURE PLANTS NEAR  
CALAMBA. END COMMENT.

4. MRS. MARCOS DISCUSSED THE PROBLEMS OF SQUATTERS,  
AUTOMOBILE TRAFFIC CONTROL, AND INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION.  
SHE DEFENDED THE HANDLING OF THE PROPOSED REMOVAL OF SQUATTERS  
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FROM THE TONDOESTEROS (CANALS), SAYING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS  
TRYING "GENTLY" TO RESETTLE THEM WITH FREE LAND. THE SQUATTERS  
WERE NOT ONLY POLLUTING THE ESTEROS BUT ALSO INFRINGING ON  
PRIVATE PROPERTY, MRS. MARCOS SAID. AS FOR THE FOREIGN  
ELEMENTS SEEKING TO STIR UP TROUBLE, THAT IS, THE TWO  
FOREIGN PRIESTS (BOTH ITALIAN AND WORKING WITH THE URBAN POOR IN  
TONDO), THEY WERE HANDLED FIRMLY AND DEPORTED. ASKED ABOUT  
THE POSITION OF THE CHURCH ON BIRTH CONTROL AND FAMILY

PLANNING, MRS. MARCOS INDICATED THAT SHE HAD NEUTRALIZED THE CHURCH ON THIS ISSUE.

5. MRS. MARCOS SAID SHE WAS INTERESTED NOT ONLY IN TRAFFIC CONTROLBUT ALSO IN INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE LOCATION OF PLANTS. DR. PETERSON DESCRIBED WORK DONE BY URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION AND THE LATTER'S REPORT, "NON-CAPITAL ALTERNATIVES FOR URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION." MRS. MARCOS ASKED DR. PETERSON TO SEND THAT REPORT AS WELL AS OTHER AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT. SHE STRESSED TWICE THAT SHE WANTED SUCH INFORMATION, NOT SO THAT THE UNITED STATES "COULD POLICE US", THAT IS, TELL THE PHILIPPINES WHAT TO DO. RATHER, SHE INDICATED THAT SHE WAS WILLING TO LEARN FROM US OR PROFIT FROM OUR MISTAKES. DR. PETERSON TOLD MRS. MARCOS THAT HE WOULD TRY TO LOCATE APPROPRIATE MATERIALS AND SEND THEM TO HER.

6. VISIT GENERALLY FOLLOWED PROGRAM OUTLINED IN MANILA 0718 EXCEPT THAT A TRIP TO A RURAL HEALTH CENTER AND A VISIT TO THE MARY JOHNSTON HOSPITAL IN THE TONDO SLUMS WERE ADDED IN VIEW OF DR. PETERSON'S INTEREST IN POPULATION AFFAIRS. SULLIVAN

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